

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2018

Chapter 3 Recommended Actions to Support Long-Term Sustainability

Workshop

Meeting Notes

June 14, 2017

Bonderson Hearing Room

901 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

During the first workshop for the Chapter 3 Update, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) presented the group with a working draft for the section, Recommendation Actions to Support Long-Term Sustainability. The group discussed the structural and contextual goals and stated the importance of sustainability, how it is relevant today and tomorrow. The focus of the workshop was to receive constructive input and recommendations on the supporting actions from the audience. The workbook illustrated the thematic ideas and emphasized the importance of stakeholder support, government alignment, and proper funding. The group concluded each section by opening the floor for questions and recommendations from the audience, and thanking everyone for their time and input.

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ATTENDANCE

See Attachment A

ACTION ITEMS

#	Item
1.	DWR to post presentation slides and workbook to website for this workshop
2.	DWR to provide a list of the current thematic plans or identify how to access them
3.	DWR to schedule follow-up Webinar on Indicators
4.	Participants to provide additional comments on any topics of interest in the Workbook to Paul Massera at: paul.massera@water.ca.gov

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Introductory Remarks**

Lisa Beutler, Facilitator, Stantec called the session to order and stated the expectations for the workshop. She provided a quick agenda review and overview of the planned workshop items.

Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) stated the objectives for the workshop. He gave a recap on the structure for California Water Plan Update 2018 (Update 2018). He clarified that the update is built on “needs based” assessments, with sustainability as the main focus. He emphasized the importance of how sustainability is measured and reported, as well as the need for government alignment.

He provided a summary of the key themes and noted areas of interest such as modernization of existing infrastructure, impacts from climate change, and other demographic bearings. The working draft reiterates the need for improvement of integrated water management at all scales regional, local, and State levels, and implementation of proper funding and financing for the Water Plan.

Chapter 3 Workshop of California Water Plan Update 2018

Paul Massera, Water Plan Program Manager, DWR, provided an overview of the content in Update 2018. He oriented the audience with the direction his team is headed and shared some of the meeting goals. This allowed him to dive deeply into the current problems and identify the changes that need to be made for the future.

Paul noted that the importance of recognizing past actions, but exemplified how they are not on track for long-term sustainability by using this idea:

REPAIR + RATION + REGULATE ≠ SUSTAINABILITY

The slight shift, from a reactive to proactive view and by broadening the overall scope to a systems-wide approach at local, regional, and state levels, the possibility of long-term sustainability can become more attainable. He outlined the big picture actions as:

- Operational definition of sustainability.
- Water management conditions .assessments
- Actionable recommendations.
- Identifying funding/revenue sources.
- Implementations: schedule, actions, track progress.

He clarified that the focus of the workshop was to seek specific recommendations to support long-term sustainability to help track performance and identify the proper indicators. Paul summarized the interrelationship between the chapters. He specified the structure for formulating recommendations and their outcomes to be the process path that enables, changes, benefits, and sustains. He showed the relationship of how these actions are connected to California's four societal values of public health and safety, healthy economy, ecosystem vitality, and enriching experiences.

Paul concluded by restating that recommendations to improve actions and red flags are wanted, and opened the floor for questions.

Chapter 3 Overview

Jenny Marr, Supervising Engineer, DWR, continued from Paul's discussion and explained the organizational components to Chapter 3, as the Water Management Effectiveness Framework. She provided a brief overview of how they utilized outcome-based planning. She identified the motives, challenges, and intended outcomes. She addressed the need to raise the level of awareness and the necessity of government alignment as a whole into the idea of sustainability. She explained the content in the flow chart provided in the workbook.

Jenny gave background information about the progress of the update and how the team referenced more than 500 actions to narrow down and help identify recommendations, challenges, and scale of actions as policy, thematic, and applied. The underlying goal of the each area within the chapter was to find recommendation actions that support the four societal values. She stated the goals of Update 2018, as referenced from the given workbook. She concluded by leading into the next portion of the workshop that will break down the listed actions for the enabling conditions.

Lisa Beutler, Facilitator, Stantec, explained the structure of the workbook where each section has different sets of recommendations with supporting actions and information. The DWR team wanted feedback under the two main categories, description and rationale. The audience was asked to provide concerns and feedback.

Modernize and Rehabilitate Water Resources Management Systems

Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, DWR, provided a brief summary under the set of recommendations titled, *Modernize and Rehabilitate Water Resources Management Systems*. He clarified the definition of infrastructure to consist of gray and green infrastructure. The first long-term strategy for this theme was to address the overdue maintenance of existing infrastructure and the urgency to begin modernizing infrastructure in response to climate and demographic changes, as well as other factors considered in the assessment.

Kamyar started with the section regarding the undertake modernization and rehabilitation of water- and flood-related infrastructure to reduce risks associated with aging and/or deficient infrastructure and the effects of climate change. He then, referencing the workbook, dove deeper and addressed the required needs for this section as:

- Develop a more rigorous assessment of existing conditions of water infrastructure.
- Evaluate the need and opportunities for additional water storage, of all forms, in California.
- Establish a fund to provide the resources needed to address the assessment changes.

The Water Plan will be used to compile and present conditions of gray and green infrastructure. Kamyar gave his perspective on the results of the Sustainable *Groundwater Management Act* (SGMA). Once SGMA was passed, it opened up the door for management of the water cycle; and now given the realities of climate change, it is necessary to reevaluate ideas for more effective storage. The intent of this section was to inform someone of current projects, grant funding, and the need for change to sustainability to benefit future needs.

Discussion

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- Clarify existing involvement of DWR in regards to the assessments and the State Water Project.
- Consistency with language and referencing State vs. state levels.
- Explanation on conceptual information for the types of assessments.
- Create clear message stating the relationship of Operations & Maintenance management and asset management.
- Clarify and state the funding that is already available.
- Revisit the area about water storage to make implementation programs more obvious.
- River systems and water storage needs to be made more explicit.
- Include groundwater aquifers into gray and green infrastructure category.
- Classification on scale of land, small or large area?

The group then transitioned to the next section whose focus was on ensuring facility operations and maintenance practices were based on current, best available data and management practices, and that operating plans and manuals were routinely updated, as appropriate for the facility type. Kamyar pointed

out that lack of funding has led to the current problems of aging infrastructure and the shortage of funds for maintenance needs.

Discussion

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- Improvement of bottom-up approach to emphasize stakeholder recommendations.
- Classification from rural, local, and state agencies.
- Identify groundwater recharge areas and protection practices.

The last theme under this recommendation was to promote the use of vegetation, soils, and other elements and land use practices, such as working landscapes, and mountain meadow and forest management to restore some of the natural processes required to manage water and create healthier urban, rural, and natural environments. Kamyar explained the linkage between land use planning and water management as well as stated the need to establish ways to develop effective conservation to restore ecosystem and capabilities of infrastructure between private and public lands.

Discussion

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- Address the groundwater sustainability agencies in the description.
- Create conservation easements and implementation practices for farmers to receive benefits.
- Addition of aquifer replenishment in addressing hydrology.
- Reinforce the protection of recharge areas in Update 2018.
- Create more relationships between state boards, urban environments, and conservation concepts.

Improve Alignment of Agencies; Initiative and Governance Structures

Jenny led this section of recommendations, *Improve Alignment of Agencies; Initiative and Governance Structure*, and stated that there are more than 2,000 local water agencies involved in water management, each holding different responsibilities. This resulted in the problem that there was no clear or unifying set of goals connecting each sector. The main purpose of this section was to establish alignment and synergy between the different agencies to create long-term strategies on a hydraulically based scale. Update 2018 will be used to promote government alliance on a regional scale, create a one state-guided plan that is locally led, and define a long term strategy that aligns local agencies, state services, and budgeting.

The first set of recommendation actions focused on the objectives of local, regional, State, and federal water and land use management organizations to appropriate societal values. This section established a path with the goal of sustainable water resource management. Jenny summarized the State agency

alignment and descriptions of the societal values legislation. She stated that the long-term strategy for hydraulic based planning was a multi-decade goal, but the preliminary steps need to be identified in order to make progress.

Jenny addressed a question from the audience regarding the need, and intended outcome, for Update 2018. She clarified that the outcome was not to consolidate existing water agencies, but that Update 2018 should provide State clarity for how the processes should work together. One suggestion from DWR was to establish a task force that would provide a series of recommendations to the Legislature. The idea of a task force would be focused around starting from the bottom and working up.

Discussion

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- State some of the lessons to be learned from development of groundwater sustainability at a State level.
- Clarify or present some of the land-use issues that need mending on a local and state scale
- Develop a statewide mission.
- Identify the barriers that exist between the end results of local and State activity.

The next section under this recommendation was based on strengthening the alignment of government planning, processes, and tools with regional governance structures so goals and objectives, actions, and tradeoffs could be discussed and evaluated holistically at a watershed/river basin scale. The focus on river basins supported the consideration of the unique and interdependent physical, biological, economic, and social processes and functions of California's watersheds. Jenny emphasized the idea of a regional water sustainability planning task force that would provide process recommendations. She tied this back to the topics mentioned at the Region Sustainability Summit. She clarified what the task force would be in charge of, which was also referenced in the provided workbook.

Discussion

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- Add a section about efficiency that:
 - a. Addresses implications of regional management.
 - b. Describes local and regional levels.
- Group the shared interests for the proposal to effectively convey the message to the State.
- Expand the idea of hydraulic-base planning and permitting.

The last recommendation in this section was focused on strengthening relationships with California Native American Tribes that acknowledged and respected Tribes' inherent rights to exercise sovereign authority and ensure that tribes are incorporated into planning and water resources decision-making processes in a matter that is consistent with their sovereign status. Jenny reviewed the lead agency definition summary

and the tribal consultation summary. No further recommendations from the audience were made for this section.

One of the challenges for the group was placing strategies and recommendations into specific areas because there were areas of overlap.

Improve Regulatory Framework to Reconcile Environmental Needs and Human Activities

Lewis Moeller, Water Plan Project Manager, DWR, led the group through the workshop for the section, *Improve Regulatory Framework to Reconcile Environmental Needs and Human Activities*. He stated that the regulatory framework was developed over time for independent needs and independent problems. But, the achievable outcomes needed to be clarified. Once this occurs, regulation can be put in place to accomplish these goals. The current consequences are related to uncertainties and long permit delays. They also discourage investments in gray and green infrastructure, as well as risk safety. Lewis stated that the outcomes for each policy need to be made clearer for the future.

The first strategy discussed the need to expand regulatory focus to include a systems oriented approach, rather than just avoiding and mitigating environmental impacts caused by discrete projects, for strategic environmental assessment that reconciles environmental needs and human activities through the dynamic balance of all four societal values at a watershed scale.

Discussion

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- Add information about reconciliation with the State.
- Suggestion to make a task force separately for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Suggestion to include environmental benefit projects in a task force area.

The second long-term action was to improve existing tools and processes to address common challenges and concerns regarding current regulatory framework. The importance of delegation of federal permitting which would guarantee that federal agencies would delegate permitting authority to the State was also noted. Lewis summarized the cooperative agreements and the coordination to resolve overlap between agencies.

Discussions

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- Integrate conservation and development programs focused on doing large-scale evaluations to better align conservation efforts and project goals.
- Check and state the lessons learned in the resource conservation districts.
- Clarify and ensure the communication and inclusion of tribes
- Describe the relationship between the physical and institutional aspects

Provide Water Managers Resources, Knowledge, Skills, and Tools for Data-Driven Decision- Making

Todd Thompson, Senior Engineer, DWR, reviewed the last section for the Chapter 3 workshop called, *Provide Water Managers Resources, Knowledge, Skills, and Tools for Data-Driven Decision-Making*. He provided a brief overview about the use of the best available science, data, tools, traditional ecological knowledge, and when necessary, develop, promote, and implement new technologies and innovations, to support data-driven decision making and policies to ensure water management stays on a sustainable path and investments are resilient. He summarized the comprehensive water resource data collection and management program.

Todd continued with details on the thematic plans for the following areas: regional and local management plans, flood management, groundwater and surface water management. The State agencies led the strategic plans for specific thematic areas. He followed by discussing planning alignment and stated the timeline for thematic plan with the California Water Plan Updates. The regional water sustainability will explain the stakeholder engagement and will be related to Chapter 2 of Update 2018.

Jenny commented on the featured thematic plans with their direct nexus within the California Water Plan, and described the potential list. She clarified that the DWR was looking into the next four or five water plan updates with the underlying purpose of having local plans feed into regional plans that feed into thematic plans to establish a long-term vision of sustainability.

Discussion

After a review of the recommendations the group was asked what red flags or improvements they had, if any, for the draft policy recommendations. Some suggestions from the group included:

- Provide a list of the current thematic plans.
- Explain assessment management with regards to data sharing.
- Concern that if too much emphasis is placed on thematic plans that it would encourage the Legislatures to fund different interest areas.
- Describe process of monitoring data collection.
- Clarify where the gaps lie in planning, and what is currently being done.
- Identify what is included in planning alignment, and values based on thematic plans.

The next section discussed how to strengthen regional integrated water management planning, track program performance, and report intended versus actual outcomes on regular cycles to promote continuous learning and adaptation. Todd went into detail about the improvements in State agencies and planning which requires them to report expectations and progress if they want to seek funding. This section reiterated the need for program adaption and modification of behaviors with regards to alignment to work toward the same goal. There were no suggestions from the group for this topic.

The final section of the recommendations provided technical and facilitation assistance and improve access to data and tools for under-represented and economically disadvantaged communities to facilitate

their participation in planning efforts at all planning scales. Todd summarized the participation through tools, funding, and programming. He mentioned that a platform is being developed, but there is not funding for the formation and maintenance of it.

Discussion

- Insert statement about robust quality control data

Next Steps

Paul recapped the action items and next steps. In addition to the action items previously listed, they added:

- Any interested member is encouraged to share their workbook comments with colleagues (as an internal product) and send answer sheets or comments to Paul Massera (paul.massera@water.ca.gov) as soon as possible.
- Upcoming meetings and workshops:
 - June 28 - CWEMF Workshop on Sustainability Indicators, 3301 C Street, Sacramento, CA (Must RSVP with the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/June28RSVP>).
 - July 19 – Workshop on Sustainable Funding, Bonderson Bld., 901 P Street, Sacramento, CA, Hearing Room.
 - July 25 - Workshop on Sustainability Indicators, Bonderson Bld., 901 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Hearing Room.
 - August 23 – Public Advisory Committee, Health Services Training Center, Sacramento, CA
- Public review draft release date: February 2018.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Paul closed the workshop with two big take-away items for improvement:

- Start to involve recommendations into ideas that can be effective actions.
- Consistency with clear language and project scope.

The group was thanked for their recommendations, involvement, feedback, and their continuing support of the Water Plan process. The meeting was adjourned.

ATTACHMENT A**Attendance****Workshop Attendees**

Amardeep Singh, DWR, NCRO	Chris Petersen, GEI Consultant, GRA	Karen Buhr, CARD CD Keith Lilley, LATCDPW
Amy Bindra, DFM, DWR	Dan Constable, DSC	Norma Camacho, SCVWD
Brad Arnold, DWR (NCRO)	David Bolland, ACWA	Rick Johnson, SAFCA
Bradley Leong, CPUC	David Broadshaw, IID	Rummy Sandhu, CVFPO, DFM, DWR
Cassandra Enos, DSC	Edgar Fandialan, MWD	Ruthie Maloney, Yurok Tribe
Charles Gardiner, CA FWD, Catalyst	Fred Silva, CA FWD	
Scott Cantrell, CDFW	Jonathan Young, CMUA	
Steve Baker, Operation Unite	Tracy Hemmeter, SCVWD	
	Tito Cervantes, DWR HRO	

Webinar Participants

Abdul Khan	Irenia Quitiquit	Megan Fidell
Bob Delp	Jennifer Ruffolo	Melissa Sparks
Brenda Tomaras	Jessica Lopez	Michael Ward
Bruce Gwynne	Jessica Steavens	Ming-Yen Tu
Cynthia Gray	John Andrew	Misty Kaltreider
Dan Constable	John Ricker	Paul Levy
Deborah Deets	Lauren Clyde	Richard Svindland
Devinder Dhillon	Leigh Bernacchi	Roy Peterson
Dong Chen	Lizbeth Calderon	Sara Toyoda
Donna Begay	Mary Fahey	Valerie Nera
Greg Zlotnick	Matt Katen	

Supporting Staff (DWR)

Daya Maralindharan	Jenny Marr	Todd Thompson
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